

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 M-03 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-14 USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 IO-12 GAC-01 AID-20 /146 R

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047603

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: MITSOTAKIS VISIT

1. PARIS EXILED FORMER CENTER UNION MINISTER CONSTANTINE MITSOTAKIS IS PRESENTLY VISITING UNITED STATES AND CALLED ON NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIES MARCH 13.

2. MITSOTAKIS GAVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HIS POSITION WHICH HE SAID HELD BY MAJORITY OF RESPONSIBLE GREEK POLITICAL FIGURES AND BY KARAMANLIS. MAIN THRUST AS FOLLOWS: IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ALL, HE ASSERTED, THAT US POLICY OF POLITE PERSUASION HAD FAILED. AFTER SIX YEARS, JUNTA STILL SHOWS NO SIGNS OF MOVING IN DIRECTION RESTORATION NORMAL POLITICAL LIFE. IT SHOULD NOW BE CLEAR THAT JUNTA CANNOT MOVE; EVEN THE MOST WE COULD EXPECT FROM PAPADOPOULOS, RIGGED ELECTIONS, IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT SOME BASE, HOWEVER MINISCULE, OF POPULAR SUPPORT. MOREOVER, PAPADOPOULOS IS IN TROUBLE, ANTIPATHY IS GROWING AMONG COMMON PEOPLE AND AMONG MILITARY, AND STUDENTS PROTEST

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WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REACHED A DEAD END. THIS IS, THEREFORE, MOST FAVORABLE TIME FOR LEADING INTO A RESOLUTION OF THE GREEK PROBLEM WITHOUT REQUIRING UNNECESSARILY HEAVY SACRIFICE FROM THE GREEK PEOPLE. THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY OUT AT THE PRESENT TIME IS VIA THE KARAMANLIS SOLUTION. KARAMANLIS IS THE ONLY FIGURE WHO ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE POPULATION AND OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY. HE WANTS TO PLAY HIS PART IN RESTORING DEMOCRACY TO GREECE, AND HE HAS THE BACKING OF A BROAD SPECTRUM OF GREEK OPINION. IT WOULD BE TRAGIC TO LOSE THIS VITAL AND LONE ASSET (KARAMANLIS) BY FAILING TO USE IT. US SHOULD NOW RE-EXAMINE ITS POSITION VIS- A- VIS GREECE IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. MITSOTAKIS SAID HE BELIEVES THAT US DOES WANT TO SEE REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT RETURNED TO GREECE AND THAT US SEES LONG- TERM DISADVANTAGES IN JUNTA CONTINUATION IN POWER. IF THE US WERE NOW TO MAKE PUBLICLY CLEAR THAT IT DOES NOT SUPPORT THE REGIME, PAPADOPOULOS' PRESENT POSITION IS SO WEAK THAT HE WOULD BE REMOVED FROM LEADERSHIP; IN THE ENSUING PERIOD THE " KARAMANLIS SOLUTION" COULD BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY.

3. DAVIES RESPONDED WITH REITERATION US POLICY CONSIDERATIONS EMPHASIZING KEY ELEMENT OF NON- INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GREECE. HE OBSERVED THAT AS MITSOTAKIS AWARE, MR. KARAMANLIS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM IN THE US BUT US COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL AS A SOLUTION TO THE GREEK PROBLEM. THAT CHOICE IS ONE ONLY THE GREEKS CAN MAKE.

4. FROM MITSOTAKIS' EXPOSITION TO DAVIES AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION DEPTOFF FOLLOWING EMERGED: HE BELIEVES THAT INDIFFERENCE TO KARAMANLIS SOLUTION WILL LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF FORMER PM' S POSITION AS ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENT REGIME AND LEAVE FIELD OPEN TO EXTREMISTS ( OF RIGHT OR LEFT) WHO LIKELY EVENTUALLY TO SUCCEED TO POWER. NEITHER US NOR GREEK INTERESTS WILL BE SERVED BY SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. PAPADOPOULOS CANNOT REMAIN IN POWER MUCH LONGER, TOO MANY FORCES ARE WORKING AGAINST HIM. REGIME HAS STAGNATED, IS UNBELIEVABLY CORRUPT, INDECISIVE AND LACKS DIRECTION. IF US CONTINUES EVEN TACIT SUPPORT IN THIS PERIOD, THE GREEK PEOPLE AS  
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WELL AS POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO PAPADOPOULOS WILL BECOME

INCREASINGLY ANTI- AMERICAN. NO ONE WANTS TO RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE JUNTA. THE OLD POLITICAL WORLD IS DEAD. ONLY A SMALL CADRE OF PRAGMATISTS REMAINS AROUND WHICH THE NEW POLITICAL FORCES OF THE FUTURE CAN BUILD. IF THE REGIME REMAINS IN POWER MUCH LONGER, HOWEVER, EVEN THAT CADRE WILL DISAPPEAR AND ANY NEW POLITICAL DYNAMIC EMERGING IN GREECE WILL BE ENTIRELY UNCONTROLLED. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE US AND NATO POSITION IN THAT STRATEGIC AREA ARE OBVIOUS. THE US TENDS TO FORGET THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF GREEK POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO BE MEN WHO BELIEVE IN THE NECESSITY OF GREEK TIES TO THE US AND NATO. UNLESS SOME OF THESE MEN CAN TAKE PART IN MOLDING THE NEW GENERATION OF POLITICIANS, THE NEW POLITICAL LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO REMEMBER US SUPPORT FOR

PAPADOPOULOS AND FORGET US SUPPORT FOR GREEK DEMOCRACY IN THE POST- WAR PERIOD.

5. MITSOTAKIS PLANS SPEND REMAINDER OF WEEK IN WASHINGTON WHERE HE EXPECTS MEET WITH NUMBER OF US LEGISLATORS AND MEMBERS OF PRESS. HE WILL SUBSEQUENTLY VISIT MONTREAL (" CRETAN COMPATRIOTS"), RETURN TO NEW YORK FOR A WEEK, COME BACK TO WASHINGTON EVENING OF MARCH 27 FOR APPEARANCE BEFORE MODERN GREEK STUDIES SEMINAR AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND LEAVE NEXT MORNING FOR PARIS. ROGERS

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